

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated February 22, 2008. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Long for her helpfulness in a telephone interview with the undersigned Attorney on June 19, 2008. In the interview, proposed amendments were discussed in view of the cited references. The Examiner indicated that, subject to further consideration and search, the present amendments with regard to editability of the status message entries by other users and linking to associated Web pages appear to move the prosecution forward.

Support for the present amendments may be found at various places in the application as originally filed. For example, support for the present amendments is found in lines 5-7 on page 4, lines 1-6 on page 5, and line 10 on page 37 through line 8 on page 39. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, based on the combination of United States patent number 6,697,840 of Godefroid et al., WO 01/86472 A1 of Mendiola and "Conversation Trees and Threaded Chats, 2000 of Smith. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted previously, the Godefroid et al. system allows a user to explicitly update his or her presence information by logging in or logging out. Godefroid et al. teach that the user interface sends messages to the rest of a presence awareness system indicating login, logout, screensaver(on), and screensaver(off) events (column 5, lines 15-18).

Mendiola discloses a system for establishing the online status of a user, that includes assigning online status flags that are based on user activity, such as sending an instant message, receiving an instant message, or interacting with the instant messaging server system.

Smith discloses a system that displays user entries listing times that corresponding users enter and exit.

Nowhere in the combination of Godefroid et al., Mendiola and Smith is there disclosed or suggested any system or method of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system, including:

...

adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users, and *wherein said new entry and each of said plurality of previous entries are each editable by both said owner user and said other users through a clickable portion of said user status message;*

*detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and*

*forming a link to an associated web page through said character string having said predetermined format, wherein said forming includes providing a form interface that allows adding of said web page associated with said link.* (emphasis added)

as in the present independent claim 1. In contrast, Godefroid et al. teaches that a user's presence information is automatically *updated* in response to explicit events, such as user logins and logouts, Smith discloses an interface that shows entry and exit times, and Mendiola teaches assigning online status flags that are based on user activity. Nothing in Godefroid et al., Mendiola and/or Smith includes any suggestion of a user status message including in which each of a new entry and each of a plurality of previous entries are each editable by both the owner user

and other users through a clickable portion of the user status message, detecting a character string having a predetermined format within the new entry, and forming a link to an associated web page through the character string having the predetermined format, wherein the forming includes providing a form interface that allows adding of the web page associated with the link, as in the present independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the combination of Godefroid et al., Mendiola and Smith fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with regard to the present independent claim 1. As claim 2 depends from claim 1, it is respectfully believed to be patentable over Godefroid et al., Mendiola and Smith for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 3 stands rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, based on the combination of Godefroid et al., Mendiola, Smith and Pyra Labs ("Blogger"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Blogger discloses a system for creating Web pages referred to as "blogs" that are made up of chronologically arranged "posts". Like Godefroid et al., Mendiola and Smith, Blogger includes no teaching or suggestion of even a need for providing a user status message in which each of a new entry and each of a plurality of previous entries are editable by both the owner user and other users through a clickable portion of the user status message, detecting a character string having a predetermined format within the new entry, and forming a link to an associated web page through the character string having the predetermined format, wherein the forming includes providing a form interface that allows adding of the web page associated with the link, as in the present independent claim 1, from which claim 3 depends. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Godefroid et al., Mendiola, Smith and Blogger does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present independent claim 1, and therefore does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with

regard to independent claim 1. Dependent claim 3 is respectfully believed to be patentable over the combination of Godefroid et al., Mendiola, Smith and Blogger for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claims 5-6 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, based on Godefroid et al., Mendiola, Smith, Blogger and "Creation of Web Pages for the Internet" of Byford ("Byford"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Byford discloses a system for underlining words or text intended to act as hypertext in a paper page, and for recording URLs at the bottom of the page that match each link. A scanner and software are then used in Byford to produce Web pages. Like both Godefroid et al., Mendiola, Smith, and Blogger, Byford includes no teaching or suggestion regarding even a need for providing a user status message in which each of a new entry and each of a plurality of previous entries are editable by both the owner user and other users through a clickable portion of the user status message, detecting a character string having a predetermined format within the new entry, and forming a link to an associated web page through the character string having the predetermined format, wherein the forming includes providing a form interface that allows adding of the web page associated with the link, as in the present independent claim 1, from which claims 5-6 depend. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the combination of Godefroid et al., Mendiola, Smith, Blogger and Byford does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present independent claim 1, and therefore does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with regard to claim 1. Dependent claims 5-6 are respectfully believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Reconsideration of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants have cancelled and amended claims herein. However, Applicants are not conceding in this application that the unamended or cancelled claims are not patentable over the

art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the unamended and/or cancelled claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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